



Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	
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Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
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Melville United Church
Sunday, December 30, 2018

* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship (Responsive):

As we begin today's service,
 we realize that we have come to an ending.

**We have come to the end of one year,
 and we are about to embark on another.**

God calls us today and every day of our lives,
 in every ending and every beginning,
to serve and worship.

And so, let us worship our God!

Opening Prayer (Unison):

God, you who are the very symbol of new beginnings, wrap us in your acceptance as we come to this time of worship. Open us to the wonders of your loving mercy, your promise, and your word, that we may truly become your faithful children, though Jesus, our loving Christ. Amen.

***Hymn: Unto Us a Boy Is Born VU 54**

Prayer of Hope for the New Year (Unison):

In this New Year,

The worries and anxieties of the past will be accepted and let go.

(silent reflection)

In this New Year,

The grudges and resentments we hold will be faced and overcome.

(silent reflection)

In this New Year,

**We will not just speak out for those downtrodden and despairing,
We will work with them.**

(silent reflection)

In this New Year,

**We will fulfill our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ,
So that the world, our neighbourhood, and our church will change for
the better.**

(silent reflection)

Words of Assurance:

With the help of God through Jesus, this New Year's change will become reality.

Know forgiveness, peace and a new way, as you journey through 2019.

We will, thanks be to God. Amen.

Theme Conversation for the Young & Young at Heart:

Children's Song: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime **VU 71**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-26 (NRSV)

The Child Samuel at Shiloh

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

And the LORD took note of Hannah; she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

Prophecy against Eli's Household

Now Eli was very old. He heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. He said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I

hear of your evil dealings from all these people. No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad. If one person sins against another, someone can intercede for the sinner with the LORD; but if someone sins against the LORD, who can make intercession?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father; for it was the will of the LORD to kill them.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Psalm: Psalm 148 **VU 871**

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52 (NRSV)

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "Raising Godly Children"

***Hymn:** Would You Bless Our Homes and Families **VU 556**

Offering:

Offering Song: In the Bleak Midwinter (Verse 4) **VU 55**

**What shall I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise one, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.**

***Offertory Prayer (Unison):**

**We bring these gifts—the work of our hands, our hearts, our lives.
We pray that they may be used to bring
the hope of Jesus Christ to our world in this time and place.
Your Kin-dom come, your will be done,
now and always. Amen.**

Prayer Prelude: Away in a Manger (Verse 3) **VU 69**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Once in Royal David's City **VU 62**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

In all our tomorrows, Living God, you are with us.
As we face the future with our fears, you give us courage.
In all our tomorrows, Living God, you are with us.
As we face the future with hope, you give us a zest for life.
In all our tomorrows, Living God, you are with us.

As we face the future with family and friends, your gift is understanding.

In all our tomorrows, Living God, you are with us.

As we face the future in our community of faith, your gift is vision.

In all our tomorrows, Living God, you are with us.

We go out knowing that in life, in death, in life beyond death, your gift is always that you are with us. We are not alone! Amen.

***Parting Song: Go, Tell It on the Mountain (Verse 3 & Chorus) VU 43**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lonely manger, the humble Christ was born,
And God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

Postlude

Prayer of the Week:

In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name. Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family embers, and wisdom to those in fearful times of change. We thank you for the gifts of love we have received from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion. As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love. Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Welcomers: Joan and John Cuming,
Linda and Norm Porritt

Counters: Phil Brown and Kaillie Rawn